



# IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

Published by  
the Rebuild Iowa Office

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**Safer, Stronger,  
Smarter**

[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

## NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR REBUILD IOWA AWARD FOR SERVICE

Nomination forms are now available for the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service.

This award recognizes Iowans for outstanding work in Iowa's disaster recovery efforts. This award serves to recognize individuals and groups for exemplary service in rebuilding Iowa safer, stronger and smarter after the floods and tornadoes of 2008.



(Continued on page 4)

*Volunteers remove sandbags from around an Iowa City home in 2008.*

## 2008 DISASTER FUNDING TOPS \$4 BILLION

Recent allocations by both the 2010 Iowa General Assembly and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) have pushed 2008 disaster recovery funds allocated to Iowa past \$4 billion.

"Recovery from the floods and storms of 2008 continues and remains a top priority for my administration," said Governor Chet Culver. "By allocating additional state funding, we are ensuring impacted Iowans have the resources they need to recover from the state's worst natural disaster."

During the 2010 Iowa

Legislative Session, lawmakers approved nearly \$65 million in recovery funds to assist Iowa in recovering from the 2008 disaster. In April, the EDA also made significant announcements including \$35 million to the City of Cedar Rapids to construct a downtown events center, \$3 million to the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to construct a Regional Commerce Center and Small Business Incubator, and \$22 million to Iowa City to fund relocation of a wastewater treatment facility.

So far, more than \$3.1 billion of Iowa's \$4 billion in

disaster funds have been approved for use. More than \$1.2 billion of the \$4 billion has been spent.

Many disaster assistance programs operate on a reimbursement basis. This method results in a gap between "spent" and "approved" funds. As projects move toward completion, money will be reimbursed to the homeowner, business, community or entity and will be considered "spent."

Iowans can follow the money as it moves through the system through monthly funding charts at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov).

## DISASTER-IMPACTED BUSINESSES MAY BENEFIT FROM TWO NEW ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Small business owners impacted by the 2008 disasters now have access to two new recovery assistance programs to assist with damaged equipment and flood insurance premiums. The programs were developed by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and were recently approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

To date, more than \$117 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds have been allocated for business assistance programs. Of that, nearly \$60 million has been approved and more than \$32 million has been spent.

The following programs are now available to business owners:

### **Equipment Reimbursement Assistance Program (ERAP):**

**This program provides financial assistance for equipment to businesses that owned their own building or leased rental space during the 2008 disasters.** The business must have sustained physical damage to machinery, equipment, furniture, inventory or supplies. Awards are limited to 75 percent of replacement cost, not to exceed a total amount of \$75,000 per business. Any business awarded funds must be located in a presidentially-declared county. Local Council of Governments or Entitlement Cities shall award funds to an eligible business for equipment fully paid for by Dec. 31, 2010.

A business cannot receive assistance for losses that have already been covered by private/business insurance, federal funding, state or local grants, forgivable loans or private bank loans for the purpose of replacing machinery and equipment,



*Businesses affected by the 2008 disasters, such as these flooded businesses in Vinton, could benefit from new assistance programs recently developed by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.*

furniture, supplies and inventory physically damaged by the 2008 disasters. Businesses who received money through the Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) or Expanded Business Rental Assistance Program (EBRAP) will not be eligible for additional assistance under this program. Also, in-home businesses and businesses located on upper floors of disaster-impacted buildings that did not sustain physical damage to equipment are not eligible for assistance.

**Flood Insurance Reimbursement Program:** **This program provides financial assistance to reimburse businesses for the cost of one year of flood insurance.** Businesses are eligible if they (1) had water in their building as a result of the 2008 disaster(s), involving overland flow or sewer backup; and/or (2) are located

in the 100 or 500-year floodplain. Under criteria 2, businesses that located to either floodplain subsequent to the disaster may also be eligible for assistance. Reimbursement is for a one-time, one year of coverage, up to \$5,000 per qualified business. The flood insurance policy start date must fall between Jan. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010. In-home businesses are not eligible for this program.

Funds for both programs are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Small business owners must apply or update their applications at their local Council of Government or Entitlement City by Dec. 31, 2010.

For a listing of area Council of Governments or Entitlement Cities, visit the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov) or call (515) 242-5004.

## WORKSHOP LOOKS AT SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN IOWA

Registrations are now being accepted for the workshop, “Sustainable Planning – The Concept and Experience in Iowa,” scheduled for June 29 in Des Moines.

The one-day workshop includes lectures and discussions on sustainable development. Organizers are excited to welcome Dan Burden, CEO and founder of Walkable Communities, Inc., to Iowa as the keynote speaker. Regional and local leaders will also speak about sustainable community development as it relates to Smart Planning, local foods, public-private partnerships, floodplain management, and many other topics of relevance to Iowans.

The lectures and discussions will take place in the morning. The afternoon will include an interactive bus tour of sustainable projects as well as a walking audit with Dan Burden in Des Moines’ Sixth Avenue Corridor. The walking audit will allow participants to get outside and tour 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue with frequent stops to analyze what

1000 Friends of Iowa



Grant Wood Stone City, Iowa 1930  
Citizens United for Responsible Land Use

is working and not working regarding pedestrian, bike and vehicle mobility.

The cost is \$85 per person and the registration deadline is May 20. Registration may be completed at [www.1000friendsofIowa.org](http://www.1000friendsofIowa.org).

This workshop has been approved for continuing education credits for the American Institute of Certified Planners through the American Planning Association and the Certified Health Education Specialists through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

## REBUILD IOWA OFFICE SEEKS COMMENTS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY SURVEY

Disaster-affected individuals and business owners in Iowa have yet another way to provide feedback on the state’s recovery from the 2008 floods and tornadoes.

The Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) recently created the “Speak Up Iowa III” survey for disaster-impacted Iowans to identify how they’ve used particular funding sources, what flood-related problems still exist and how current recovery programs can better serve Iowans in future disasters.

On May 1, the RIO mailed approximately 1,000 surveys to randomly selected disaster-affected homeowners and business owners across the state. If an impacted individual did not receive a survey in the mail and wants to provide feedback, he/she can complete a survey through the RIO Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov). Once on the home page, click on the “Speak Up

Iowa” icon to complete the online survey or print off a copy to return by mail. Surveys must be returned to the RIO or submitted online by May 20.

General survey results will be shared with the public through the RIO’s July Quarterly Report. Survey results will also serve as a guideline for improving disaster programs offered nationwide and specifically in Iowa.

This survey represents the third survey conducted by the RIO following the 2008 floods and tornadoes. Previous “Speak Up Iowa” surveys have resulted in the creation of programs to meet long-term recovery needs, including housing, business and individual needs of flood-impacted Iowans. Results from previous surveys can be found in past quarterly reports issued by the Office.

*For monthly funding updates on Iowa’s 2008 disaster recovery, visit the RIO Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov) and click on the “Disaster Funds for Iowa” button.*



## The Rebuild Iowa Office



*The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.*

[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

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## FLOOD SEMINARS PLANNED FOR FIVE COMMUNITIES ACROSS IOWA

Seminars planned in five communities this summer will help Iowans better understand recent flooding and how the state can better plan and prepare for future floods.

Titled "Anatomy of Iowa Floods: Preparing for the Future," the events take place from 4-6 p.m. in the following locations:

- Burlington: Wednesday, June 16, at the Burlington City Council Chambers
- Cedar Rapids: Monday, June 21, at Kirkwood Comm. College Training & Outreach Services Bldg.
- Waverly: Wednesday, June 30, at the Waverly-Shell Rock High School Auditorium
- Mason City: Wednesday, July 14, at the North Iowa Community College Muse-

Norris Conference Center

- Ames: Monday, July 19, at the Ames City Council Chambers

Topics to be covered include climate change trends in Iowa precipitation; trends in water run-off; work of the Iowa Flood Center; floodplain management strategies; water quality; the Cedar Falls Floodplain Initiative; rural-urban watershed coalition building; and a review of state public policy issues. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

Following each forum, refreshments will be served and free copies of the book, "A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008," will be available.

For more information, contact Joe Bolkcom at [joe-bolkcom@uiowa.edu](mailto:joe-bolkcom@uiowa.edu), (319) 353-2681.

### REBUILD IOWA AWARD (continued from page 1)

Eligible recipients include citizens, volunteers, citizen groups, business leaders/owners, non-profit groups, and others. Government employees at the local, state or federal level are not eligible to receive the award.

The Rebuild Iowa Award for Service nomination form can be found at the Rebuild Iowa Office Web site ([www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)). Nominations can be submitted by individuals, local groups, government employees, etc.

Once received, all applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee made up of public dignitaries and private citizens involved with the

Iowa's 2008 disaster recovery effort. Nominees will be judged on their volunteer hours, impact on the community, creativity, leadership, and sustainability of the project(s) in which they were involved.

Nominees selected by the committee will receive an engraved plaque to be presented during a public ceremony/event organized by the Rebuild Iowa Office.

Nomination forms must be submitted by Friday, June 11, 2010. Nominations received after this date will not be eligible for consideration. Award winners will be announced and honored in public ceremonies throughout July.

### Clip & Save...

#### Iowa Disaster Recovery Contacts

Rebuild Iowa Office ( <a href="http://www.rio.iowa.gov">www.rio.iowa.gov</a> )	866.849.0323
Ticket to Hope crisis counseling ( <a href="http://www.tickettohope.org">www.tickettohope.org</a> )	800.447.1985 (the Iowa Concern Hotline)
Iowa Mortgage Help ( <a href="http://www.IowaMortgageHelp.com">www.IowaMortgageHelp.com</a> )	877.622.4866
National Flood Insurance Program ( <a href="http://www.floodsmart.gov">www.floodsmart.gov</a> )	888.379.9531
Federal Emergency Management Agency ( <a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a> )	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
U.S. Small Business Administration ( <a href="http://www.sba.gov">www.sba.gov</a> )	800.659.2955